

MAR 08 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ACCEPT THE NATIONAL
ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY CERTIFICATION FOR TEACHERS
PROVIDING ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SERVICES.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Education has perennially
2 struggled to fill vacancies for teacher of blind students or
3 teacher of the visually impaired positions, including positions
4 providing specialized instruction in orientation and mobility;
5 and
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7 WHEREAS, blind children in Hawaii end up being underserved
8 with regard to orientation and mobility in the Department of
9 Education, reducing their opportunity to participate equally and
10 meaningfully with their sighted peers and build their capacity
11 to contribute to the State's communities; and
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13 WHEREAS, the Department of Education currently has no
14 employees who hold the National Orientation and Mobility
15 Certification (NOMC) from the National Blindness Professional
16 Certification Board (NBPCB); and
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18 WHEREAS, for the teaching of orientation and mobility, the
19 Department of Education currently only accepts the Certified
20 Orientation and Mobility Specialist certification from the
21 Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education
22 Professionals, which only gives the Department of Education the
23 personnel resources to provide vision-centered orientation and
24 mobility services, one of two major forms of orientation and
25 mobility; and
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27 WHEREAS, the Department of Education currently does not
28 accept the NOMC offered by the NBPCB, making the Department of
29 Education unable to provide Structured Discovery Cane Travel, a
30 service which can only be provided by a professional certified
31 by the NBPCB; and
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33 WHEREAS, when parents of blind children needing Structured
34 Discovery Cane Travel request it as a service on their
35 Individualized Education Plans, they are consistently told that



1 the Department of Education is unable to provide this service,
2 thus leaving their blind child without sufficient services; and
3

4 WHEREAS, for decades, Structured Discovery Cane Travel has
5 been empowering blind children and adults across the United
6 States, helping them build confidence and feelings of self-
7 respect as they navigate their world safely and without shame
8 about their blindness; and
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10 WHEREAS, the methods and principles that undergird
11 Structured Discovery Cane Travel come from the lived experiences
12 of blind men and women who have shared their experiences,
13 attitudes, and techniques with each other since 1940, leading to
14 instructional services consisting of non-visual techniques,
15 problem solving strategies, experiential learning, confidence
16 building experiences, and the role modeling of non-visual
17 techniques, which demonstrate their effectiveness while
18 correcting misconceptions about blindness; and
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20 WHEREAS, the NOMC from the NBPCB is already accepted by the
21 Hawaii Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in order to provide
22 orientation and mobility services, where, in fact, all current
23 providers of orientation and mobility services are blind adults
24 certified by the NBPCB; now, therefore,
25

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
27 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the
28 Department of Education is requested to accept the National
29 Orientation and Mobility Certification from the National
30 Blindness Professional Certification Board for teachers
31 providing orientation and mobility services in the Department;
32 and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
36 Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of the
37 Department of Education, Administrator of the Hawaii Division of
38 Vocational Rehabilitation Services for the Blind Branch
39 (Ho'opono), President of the National Blindness Professional
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1 Certification Board, President of the National Federation of the
 2 Blind of Hawaii, and President of the Hawaii Association of the
 3 Blind.
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OFFERED BY:

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